FDI for Madarsa

399. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow FDI in the education sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FDI would be allowed for Madarsas also; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken into consideration the security angle and the role played by certain Madarsas in communal violence in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Drop-outs in college level correspondence courses

400. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steady increase in the number of drop-out in the 2nd and 3rd years of the correspondence courses at college level;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of drop-outs of correspondence courses at college level for the last five years; and

(c) what plans Government have to counter this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordination and maintenance of standards in distance education system in tertiary level in the country, the open and distance education allows a student to complete courses/programmes at ones own pace and time which permits a student to drop-out and appear for the examination

subsequently, at his/her own convenience, within a time span of six-seven years. The Distance Education Council, which has been set up as a Statutory authority under the IGNOU Act, provides training and workshops at Correspondence Course Institutes with a view to strengthening the processes under the open and distance learning system.

Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

401. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' programme in States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted for creation of additional infrastructure to implement the programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures to be undertaken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Review of implementation is a continuous process under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and this is carried out periodically through meetings and visits to the States.

(c) to (e) The Government of India had sanctioned funds to States under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for pre-project activities including household survey, community based micro planning and school mapping and diagnostic studies. Most of the State Governments have completed these activities and based on their assessment, prepared detailed District Elementary Education Plans incorporating the requirement of additional infrastructure for sanction under the programme.

The District Elementary Education Plans (Annual Plans 2002-03) in respect of 362 District received from the various State Governments have been appraised and sanctioned by the Project Approval Board at a total outlay of Rs. 1809.41 crores (up to 15.11.2002).